



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

DOI-BLM-CO-N040-2015-0026 CX

PROPOSED ACTION.

Annual Road Maintenance for 2015

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION.

See Table 1 and Table 2 for a list of roads to be maintained and Attachment A for maps.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION.

The BLM engineering field office annually maintains roads within the Colorado River Valley Field Office depending on road conditions and funding availability. Approximately 40.4 miles are planned for FY 2015. Approximately 18.4 miles of the work will be completed with grader and 22 miles completed with dozer. The attached list shows the road number, road name, mileage related to maintenance, and the recommendations/notes for the known maintenance work. The road number is a geographical indicator of where the road lies within the Field Office. The type of work to be completed includes blading of the existing road surface by grader or dozer, cleaning of water bars and ditches with grader or dozer, installing new water bars or ditches along the existing road with dozer and general maintenance/repair. No new surface disturbance is planned under this project. If new surface disturbance is necessary on any of the proposed roads, the appropriate NEPA document will be completed and approved. Table 1 lists specific routes to be maintained with a grader and Table 2 lists specific routes to be maintained with a dozer during the 2015 road maintenance period (about May 1 through November 30).

Table 1. Grader Work for 2015

GRADER			
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Eagle County - Hardscrabble Area			
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8380	North Hardscrabble	9.2	Waterbar and general maintenance/repair (rutted)
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Subtotal:		9.2 miles	
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Eagle County – Castle Peak Area

8500	East Castle Peak	6.4	Pull Ditches and general maintenance/repair
8510	Blue Lake	1.2	Pull Ditches and general maintenance/repair
8511	Poison	0.8	Pull Ditches and general maintenance/repair
8512	Picture Ridge	0.8	Pull Ditches and general maintenance/repair
Subtotal:		9.2 miles	

TOTAL GRADER: 18.4 miles

Table 2. Dozer Work for 2015

DOZER

Garfield County - Roan Area

8004	Cook Ridge, 1 st mile	1.0	Waterbar/general maintenance/drainage
8008	Long Ridge, 1 st 5 miles	5.0	Waterbar/general maintenance/drainage
8046	JQS Trail, top 2 miles	2.0	Waterbar/general maintenance/slides/repair ruts
Subtotal:		8 miles	

Garfield County Area

8320	The Crown	6.9	Waterbar/general maintenance/drainage/repair ruts
8324	Vasten	7.1	Waterbar/general maintenance/drainage, clear corridor

Subtotal: 14 miles

TOTAL DOZER: 22 miles

LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE.

The proposed action is subject to, and has been reviewed for, conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3).

Name of Plan: Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan Glenwood Springs Resource Area

Date Approved: January, 1984; revised in 1988; amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance; and amended in 2012 – Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments/Record of Decision (ROD) for Solar Energy Development in Six Southwestern States.

Decision Language: The action is in conformance with Travel Management planned management actions, which states “improve existing roads” on page 41.

COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA.

The proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4, Number: G. (2). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Table 3. Exclusions.

EXCLUSIONS	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW.

Table 4. BLM Interdisciplinary Team Authors and Reviewers.

Name	Title	Areas of Participation
Kimberly Miller	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, Recreation
Kristy Wallner	Rangeland Management Specialist	Invasive, Non-native species (noxious weeds)
Greg Wolfgang	Recreation Planner	Travel Management
Pauline Adams	Hydrologist	Water, Soil, Air, Geology
Carla DeYoung	Ecologist	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; T/E/S Plants; Vegetation; Wetlands and Riparian Zones
Hilary Boyd	Wildlife Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife including T/E/S, Migratory Birds and Terrestrial Wildlife including T/E/S
Brian Hopkins	Planning and Environmental Coordinator	NEPA Compliance

REMARKS/MITIGATION.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

Any paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting with the holder.

CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Numerous cultural projects have been conducted on, across, and encompassing the road maintenance areas. Sites eligible or potentially eligible to the NRHP may exist along roads not yet surveyed. However, the majority of proposed road maintenance is planned to stay within areas of previous road disturbance and cultural objects/features uncovered by road maintenance will be reported immediately to the Authorizing Officer in accordance with the discovery stipulation.

An indirect effect of keeping roads in good condition is increased traffic, possibly increasing artifact collection and site vandalism. A beneficial effect of road maintenance is that the public

will use the road rather than creating new routes that could have an adverse impact. Short of closing areas to the public, public education and ranger patrols, which are a general part of BLM's programs, are the most effective methods of curbing vandalism and collecting. Contracts for road maintenance will include the education and discovery stipulation to inform road maintenance workers to leave cultural resources in place and to report finds to the BLM. An indirect effect of allowing roads to erode would be site erosion, so a beneficial effect of road maintenance is controlling site erosion.

Education and Discovery Stipulation (for insertion into Road Maintenance Contracts): All persons in the area who are associated with this project must be informed that if anyone is found disturbing historic, archaeological, or scientific resources, including collecting artifacts, the person or persons will be subject to prosecution.

Pursuant to 43CFR10.4(g), the BLM authorized officer shall be notified, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43CFR10.4 (c) and (d), activities shall stop in the vicinity of the discovery, and the discovery shall be protected for 30 days or until notification to proceed has been issued by the authorized officer.

If in connection with operations under this contract the project proponent, its contractors, subcontractors, or the employees of any of them, discovers, encounters or becomes aware of any objects or sites of cultural or paleontological value or scientific interest such as historic or prehistoric ruins, graves or grave markers, fossils, or artifacts, the proponent shall immediately suspend all operations in the vicinity of the cultural or paleontological resource and shall notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings (16 U.S.C. 470h-3, 36CFR800.112). Operations may resume at the discovery site upon receipt of written instructions and authorization by the authorized officer. Approval to proceed will be based upon evaluation of the resource. Evaluation shall be by a qualified professional selected by the authorized officer from a federal agency insofar as practicable. When not practicable, the holder shall bear the cost of the services of a non-federal professional.

Within five working days, the authorized officer will inform the holder as to:

- whether the materials appear eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- mitigation measures the holder is likely to be required to undertake before the site can be used (assuming in situ preservation is not necessary); and
- a time frame for the authorized officer to complete an expedited review under 36CFR800.11, or any agreements in lieu thereof, to confirm through the State Historic Preservation Officer that the findings of the authorized officer are correct and the mitigation is appropriate.

The proponent may relocate activities to avoid the expense of mitigation and/or the delays associated with this process, as long as the new area has been appropriately cleared of resources and the exposed materials are recorded and stabilized. Otherwise, the proponent shall be responsible for mitigation costs. The authorized officer will provide technical and procedural guidelines for the conduct of mitigation. Upon verification from the authorized officer that the

required mitigation has been completed, the proponent will then be allowed to resume construction.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest that are outside the authorization boundaries but directly associated with impacted resources shall be included in this evaluation and/or mitigation.

Antiquities, historic, prehistoric ruins, paleontological or objects of scientific interest, identified or unidentified, that are outside of the authorization and not associated with the resource within the authorization will also be protected. Impacts that occur to such resources and that are related to the authorizations activities shall be mitigated at the proponent's cost including the cost of consultation with Native American groups.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS.

The area under consideration contains no known areas or location of religious or cultural concern to Native Americans. If such areas are subsequently identified or become known through the Native American notification or consultation process they would be considered during the implementation phase. The BLM will take no action that would adversely affect these areas or location without consultation with the appropriate Native Americans.

The Ute people have not been consulted since the project is planned to stay within areas of previous road disturbance.

NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEEDS MITIGATION.

The operator shall ensure that equipment involved in land disturbing actions is clean of noxious weed seeds or propagative parts prior to entry on site. When working in areas with noxious weeds, equipment shall be cleaned prior to moving offsite.

DECISION AND RATIONALE.

I considered this action and determined that it may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

Signature

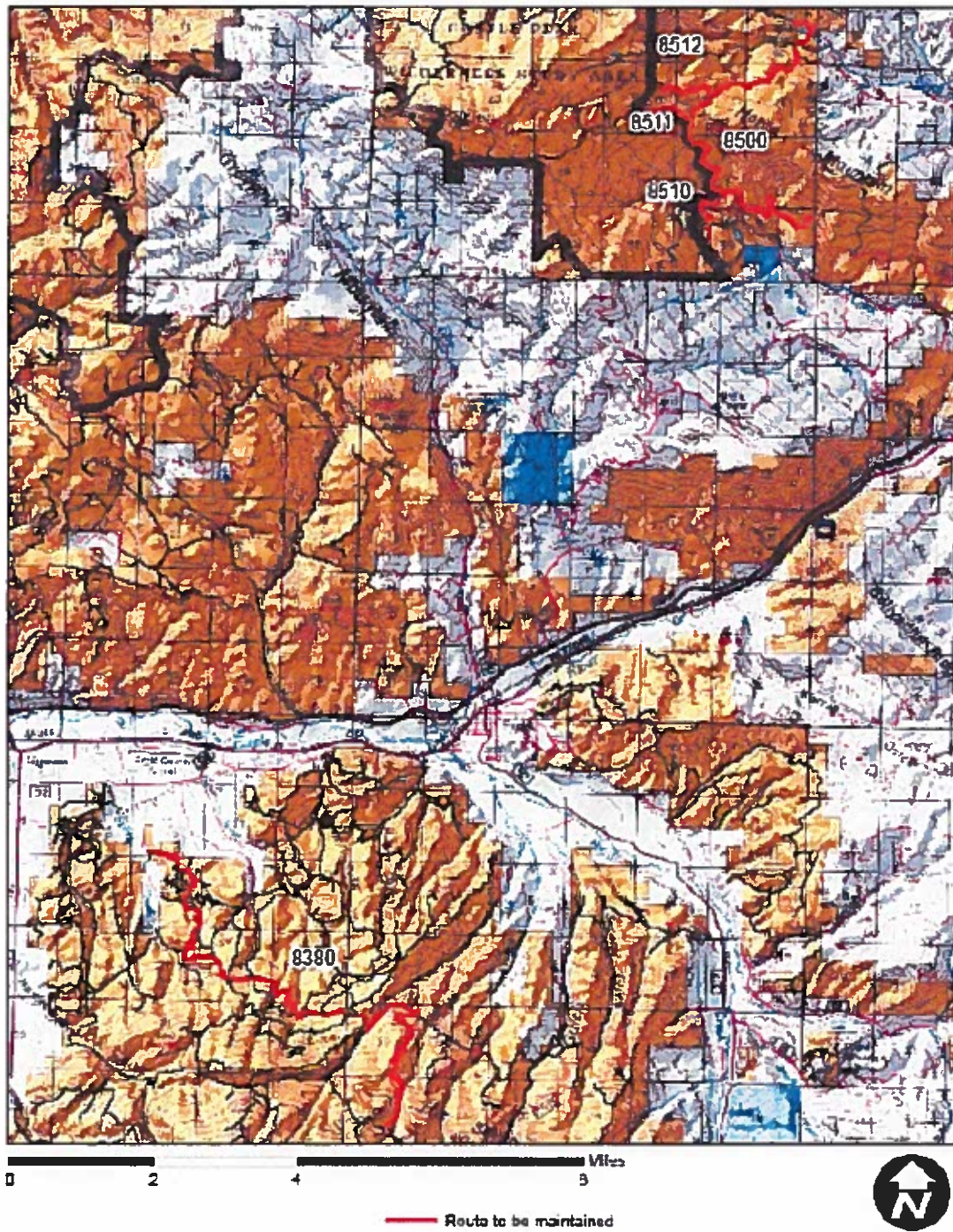
Authorizing Official:  Date: 1/8/2015
Karl R. Mendonca
Acting Field Manager

Contact Person

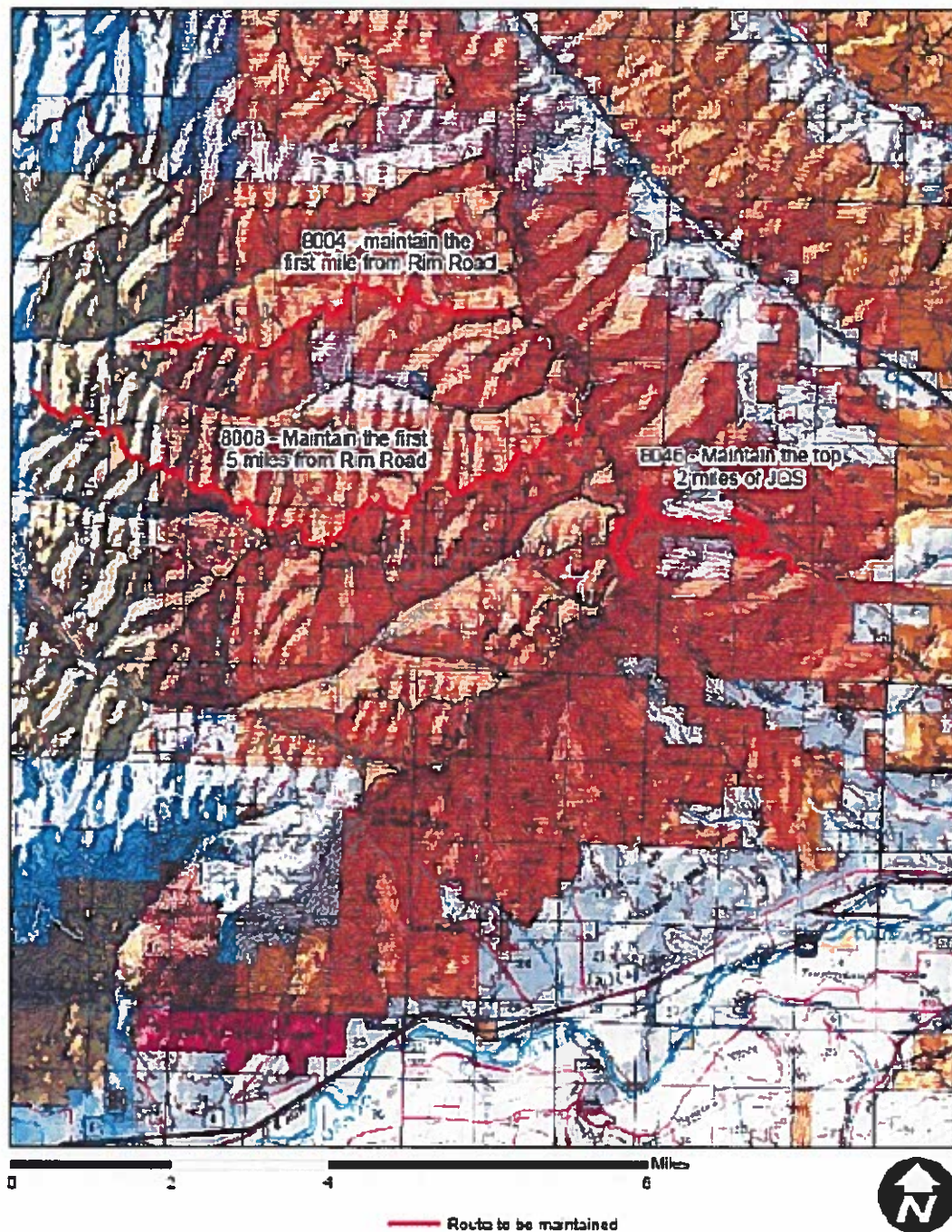
For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Greg Wolfgang, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Colorado River Valley Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road, Silt, CO 81652, (970) 876-9068.

Attachment A- Maps

Eagle Area Grader



Garfield County -Roan Area Dozer



Garfield County - Crown Area Dozer

